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On the Hill



Hearings Continue in Full Swing

Several hearings pertaining to FNS are scheduled over the next few weeks. On June 14 and 15, the Senate Agriculture's Nutrition Subcommittee will hold hearings on child nutrition reauthorizations. Acting Administrator Scott Dunn will testify on behalf of the Administration on June 14. On June 15, Dunn will testify before the House Select Committee on Hunger on the issue of "Poverty and the Single Person." On June 21, the House Committee on Education and Labor is expected to begin markup of the child nutrition legislation (H.R. 24).

The Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources has scheduled hearings for July 11 and 13 on the political status of Puerto Rico. On July 19, the House Select Committee on Hunger will be exploring "automation" as it pertains to poverty programs. Finally, on July 21, the House Agriculture's Subcommittee on Nutrition will be holding a field hearing in Atlanta, Georgia, on food stamp issues in the fiscal year 1990 Farm Bill.

We have not received firm dates for markup of the child nutrition legislation in the Senate nor schedules for House or Senate markup of fiscal year 1990 appropriations bills.



-Story by Robert Beard
Office of Governmental Affairs

1989 FS Supplemental Requested

The President sent the request for additional funding authority to Congress on May 26. The Senate Appropriations Committee included \$224.6 million for food stamps in the bill which they reported out to the full Senate on May 31. The full Senate approved the supplemental on June 7. Now the House and Senate versions must be reconciled and passed by the Congress, and the President's approval must be obtained.

-Story by Frank Gatchell
Deputy Director, Budget

Join Us for the 20th Anniversary Kickoff



The kickoff of the 20th Anniversary of FNS will be held June 13 at 10 a.m. in Conference Room 400. All employees are invited to the brief ceremony.

Acting Administrator Scott Dunn will unveil seven portraits of our former FNS administrators. A reception will follow along with an exhibit of FNS memorabilia.

T-shirt design entries by various headquarter, regional, and field contestants will be on display. Votes may be cast on the winning art which will appear as our FNS design on T-shirts as well as a hand-made quilt that will be hung in the agency. You also may pre-order your T-shirt at this time.

MWRO Takes Part in Wisconsin Family Assistance Conference

MWRO Food Stamp Program Director Dustan Van Vleet and supervisory food program specialists Gilda Karu and Dave Witt addressed the Family Assistance Conference, "Focus on the Future: Self Sustaining Families," hosted by the Wisconsin Department of Health and Social Services in Stevens Point in April.



More than 550 income maintenance and child support workers from throughout the state attended. Food Stamp Program workshops included updates on the Hunger Prevention Act, quality control improvement, welfare reform, employment and training, work program impact, and front-end verification. Wisconsin Governor Tommy G. Thompson also presented an update on welfare reform.

Left to right are MWRO Food Stamp Program Director Dustan Van Vleet and MWRO supervisory food program specialist Dave Witt exchanging ideas with Joe Stafford and John Bauer of the Wisconsin state agency.



MWRO Food Stamp Program Director Dustan Van Vleet (left) met with Wisconsin Governor Tommy G. Thompson to discuss key food stamp issues.

MARO Goes for the Title

MARO's Gail Magee, food program specialist, Special Nutrition Programs, was recently awarded a first-place trophy for evaluating a model speech given at the Toastmasters District Speech and Evaluation Contest hosted by the region's USDA Toastmasters Club in Plainsboro, New Jersey.

Magee's evaluation was judged on its analytical quality, grammar, organization, technique, and voice quality. Magee will now go on to compete at the division level and could eventually be a candidate for the national competition.

"Toastmasters helps our employees learn public speaking in a nonthreatening environment where they can receive constructive criticism," said Margot Kaeser-deSouza, MARO Toastmasters Club President.

-Story by MWRO
Public Affairs Staff
Photo by Gilda Karu

-Story by Kim Jabat
MARO Public Affairs Staff

20th Anniversary Photo Trivia



Who are these guys?



Who's the masked man?



How long were your
side burns in 1973?



She had never heard of
Food Distribution in 1969.

If the
administrator
is Santa Claus,
is this former
regional
administrator
an elf?



MWRO Administrator Meets With Minnesota Commissioner



MWRO Administrator Monroe Woods recently met with Minnesota Commissioner of Human Services Sandra Gardebring to discuss the state's operation of the Food Stamp Program. Woods also briefed the commissioner and her staff on quality control issues, Hunger Prevention Act provisions, and McKinney Homeless Assistance Act issues.

-Photo by Lawrence Rudmann
MWRO Public Affairs Staff

Overnight Mail Delivery Knows No Bounds

The eagle has landed--this time in the FNS St. Louis Field Office. The national symbol of the U.S. Postal Service was merely advertising its overnight mail delivery service among Federal agencies in St. Louis. Non-plussed OIC Fred Noyd accepted the promotional materials, but he admitted later, "You could have knocked me over with a feather."



-Photo by MPRO
Public Affairs Staff

New Commodity Warehouse Outshines Predecessor

NERO officials traveled to Rhode Island to participate in the recent dedication of a new 45,000 square foot state-of-the-art warehouse in Cranston. NERO was instrumental in helping the Rhode Island distributing agency persuade the state to build the new warehouse after reviews found deplorable storage conditions and archaic procedures.

Robert Leathe, food program specialist; Terence McNamara, Rhode Island Commodity Distribution Office; and Miguel Valdivielso, NERO deputy administrator, a featured speaker at the ceremonies.

-Story and photo by NERO
Public Affairs Staff



SERO Employee Racewalks to Victory

SERO's Dan Strohl strolled to victory in the recent 50K National Racewalk Championship held in Atlanta. With family and friends cheering him on, he finished first among Georgia walkers, sixth in the masters (age 40 and up), and 18th overall.



"Up to now, I've been a frustrated athlete," said Strohl, a food program specialist. "I'm very competitive by nature and finally have found something I'm pretty good at. I really enjoyed coming home with a trophy and seeing myself on the sports news that night."

A judged event, whose participants must adhere to a very strict walking style, the 50K race was held at Atlanta's Piedmont Park. The walkers circled it 20 times to reach the finish line. Strohl's time was 5 hours and 50 minutes. "I was happy not only with my time but that I was even able to finish," Strohl said. "I never had raced that distance before."

Strohl normally trains 20 to 30 miles a week, 10 percent at high speed. His fastest time for 1 mile is 8 minutes flat. Strohl has been racewalking for nearly 2 years. He started because a back injury stopped him from running.

Thus far, he holds the masters title for Georgia and maintains that walking is more beneficial than running.

"Racewalking looks ridiculous, but I can walk almost as fast as I used to run," Strohl said. "It's much easier on the joints. You get the same aerobic effect and burn the same number of calories per mile. Since I've been doing it, I've lost 15 pounds. My blood pressure and cholesterol levels are lower, and I can eat all the starchy foods I want."

Piedmont Park. Racewalking. Trophies. Strohl "strolls" down memory lane and back again. Congratulations to FNS' best racewalker!

Story and photo by Steve Watson
SERO Public Affairs Staff

MPRO Staff Addresses QC and Communications Issues

MPRO staff staged a 2-day meeting to clarify quality control issues and to develop recommendations to improve communications between the region and field staff. At left of Regional Administrator David Alspach is Assistant Regional Administrator Brian Allison and at right is Deputy Regional Administrator Forrest Moore.



-Photo by Craig Forman
MPRO Public Affairs Staff

Regional/Headquarters' Cooperation Solves Staffing Deficiency

Georgiana Gordon and Norma Ball from the Child Care Food Program (CCFP) Division helped out during a recent staffing deficiency at the Alexandria, Virginia, Field Office.



John Wingo, Alexandria OIC (seated left), makes a comment about CCFP to Georgiana Gordon (left) and Norma Ball, CCFP Division. Observing is Keith Wyatt, Alexandria food program specialist.

The 60-day detail symbolizes the cooperation that exists between headquarters and the regional office. The field office location also helped the situation.

The experience was two-fold because the field office gained technical experience from CCFP workers while Gordon and Ball were equally impressed with the skill and flexibility exhibited by the field staff as they administered the different programs.

Alexandria OIC John Wingo commented that, "Georgiana and Norma were invaluable during the summer months because the field office was heavily involved with summer feeding project assignments. Our experience with these work details has been positive, and we will continue to promote this kind of activity in the future."

-Story by Kim Jabat
MARO Public Affairs Staff
Photo by Larry Rana
Photo Division, OGPA

WRO Prepares for Medical Emergencies

Once again, Alan Dower, food program specialist, brings his Red Cross expertise to the annual WRO CPR training. In three sessions last month, Dower used Red Cross mannequins and videos to explain CPR, choking maneuvers, and emergency breathing techniques to 29 staff members. He has been teaching CPR for the Red Cross for 8 years and has instructed at three of the four WRO annual trainings.

The CPR course comprises half of an 8-hour training course in first-aid techniques. Participants have the choice of attending only the first session and being certified in CPR or attending both for CPR and first-aid certification. Dower says he anticipates certifying 25 people in both areas this year. The first-aid portion will be scheduled soon.



Alan Dower, WRO food program specialist, demonstrates proper techniques for CPR.

-Story and photo by Kristen Bole
WRO Public Affairs Staff

Secretaries Deserve a Little Pampering Every Now and Then



Almost heaven! Eat your heart out folks! Mary Morris, Public Information Staff (smiling), was just one of the POC secretaries who took advantage of the complimentary neck massage offered during secretaries week by The Center Club.

On the Move With Upward Mobility

"I wouldn't have progressed to the point I am now without the NERO Upward Mobility Program," says Denise Patrick, financial management specialist.

If nothing speaks for the success of a program better than satisfied participants, NERO has a successful program on its hands. Patrick is just one of 16 current NERO employees who have advanced through it from clerical positions to administrative ones.

"The Upward Mobility Program provides an opportunity for employees who demonstrate potential for greater responsibility to compete for entry or bridge positions which have promotion potential to mid-level positions," said NERO Administrator Harold McLean.

McLean, an ardent supporter of upward mobility and advancement opportunities,

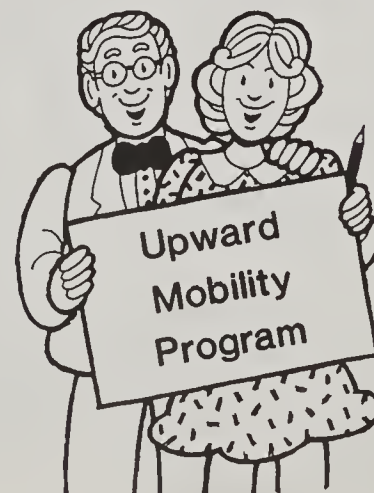
credits NERO's first-line supervisors for their personal commitment in recognizing and advancing NERO's own employees.

Patrick began her FNS career in 1979 as a stay-in-schooler. In 1983, she accepted a position as full-time clerk typist; in 1984, she entered an upward mobility plan as a fiscal clerk. With no formal background in finance, just a few high school courses and the knowledge she picked up as a secretary in the financial management section, Patrick credits on-the-job training as an invaluable part of her advancement. In 1986, she was promoted to financial management specialist and has advanced to grade 11.

Just beginning their upward mobility plans are Joyce Robinson and Anne Reilly, formerly secretaries in the Food Stamp Program and Child Nutrition Section, respectively. "For a lot of clericals, upward mobility is the only avenue open for advancement," said Reilly. Both cite the need for a greater challenge and increased responsibilities as primary reasons for applying for the Upward Mobility Program positions. They credit their co-workers for their support and encouragement in making the transition an easy one.

"With two more employees set on a path to advancement, NERO will continue to be a leader in providing advancement opportunities for all its employees," said McLean.

-Story by NERO
Public Affairs Staff



A Star is Born

Once John Harwell came to California, it was only a matter of time till he was discovered.

Harwell wasn't discovered by Hollywood but by the WRO Public Affairs Staff.

Harwell played the "lead" in "Food Stamps Accepted Here," a video produced by WRO to help train convenience store staff about the Food Stamp Program. Although it was "just part of the job," according to Harwell, his part in the video earned him a certificate of merit and a check to go along with it.



WRO Field Operations Director Karen Howard presented John Harwell, food program specialist in the Sacramento, California, Field Office, with an award for his outstanding work on a video for training Food Stamp Program retailers. Harwell warns his fans, "Beware... because just when you thought it was safe to go back to the convenience store, you may see 'Food Stamps II.'"

Director of Field Operations for WRO Karen Howard said, "John did an outstanding job, even though he is not a professional actor. His delivery was clear and believable." WRO Public Affairs Director Dick Montoya was also impressed, adding that he did "a great job although he had no special training or on-camera experience."

The tape was developed in response to a request from 7-11 convenience store representatives for training in Food

Stamp Program regulations and procedures for operators of retail chains, and especially convenience stores. "The video is a standardized method of getting the information across and can be easily duplicated for use as an inexpensive training tool for retailers, especially those with high turnover rates," says Montoya. Howard added that using the video tape can help prevent retailer violations and save valuable time for field office staffs across the country.

Indeed, field offices throughout WRO as well as in the Southeast, Northeast, Southwest, and Mountain Plains Regions have used the tape during their retailer orientations. The tape has been used at retailer conventions by MWRO to attract attention to the FNS booth.

Before coming to the Sacramento Field Office in 1977, Harwell had worked in the Raleigh, North Carolina, Field Office on detail. Several people who had worked with Harwell recognized him in the video.

Anyone interested in seeing or using "Food Stamps Accepted Here" may contact their regional Public Affairs Staff or WRO Public Affairs staff at FTS 556-7390.

-Story by Dee Amaden
WRO Public Affairs Staff
Photo by Bob Delany
Sacramento Field Office



Friday Letter Vacancy Listing by Vacancy Number

JOB TITLE	AREA OF CONSID.	SERIES	CLOSING GRADE	CLOSING DATE	VACANCY NUMBER	OFFICE LOCATION
o Program Analyst	(A)	GS-345	11/12	07/03/89	89-119	OAE
o Program Analyst	(A)	GS-345	9/11	06/20/89	89-120	OAE
o Contract Specialist	(G)	GS-1102	12/13	06/26/89	89-122	ASD
o Management Analyst	(FNS-H)	GS-343	12	06/20/89	89-123	IRMD
o Supr. Pub. Aff. Spec.	(USDA)	GM-1035	13	06/26/89	89-125	OGAPI
o Food Program Spec.	(FNS-H)	GS-120	5	06/26/89	89-126	CND

Office Location

Area of Consideration

OAE - Office of Analysis and Evaluation
 ASD - Administrative Services Division
 IRMD - Information Resources Management Division
 OGAPI - Office Of Governmental Affairs & Public Information
 CND - Child Nutrition Division

(A) - All Sources
 (G) - Governmentwide
 (FNS-H) - Food and Nutrition Service (Headquarters)
 (USDA) - USDA-wide

Mary E. Kennedy, Editor

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